

REMARKS

In the July 5, 2006 Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 18-20 stand rejected in view of prior art, claim 11 was allowed, and claims 3-10 and 12-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 5, 2006 Office Action, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, and 18-20 and have placed claims 3, 5, and 10 in independent form, as indicated above. Further, Applicant has amended claims 5, 7, 10, and 11 to correct grammatical and/or form errors discovered upon review. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 3-17 are pending, with claims 3, 5, 10, and 11 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On July 13, 2006, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Kammie Cuneo, who confirmed that the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 18-20 should have been made under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) using WO 02/093273 (Seyr) instead of 35 §102(e) using U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0170088 (Seyr). Applicant wishes to thank Examiners Cuneo and Kayes for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In items 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by International Patent Application Publication WO 02/093273

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(Seyr). In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2 rendering the rejections thereto moot.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In items 6-9 of the Office Action, claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0170088 (Seyr) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,724,317 (Kubota et al.) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0135198 (Wellen), although item 9 makes reference to Capt, which Applicant assumes is the previously cited U.S. Patent No. 3,901,020. In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 18-20 rendering the rejections thereto moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

In items 10-15 of the Office Action, claim 11 was indicated as allowed and claims 3-10 and 12-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and the reasons for allowance were stated. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claims 3, 5, and 10 to place them in independent form. Thus, independent claims 3, 5, and 10 are believed to be allowable.

Prior Art Citation

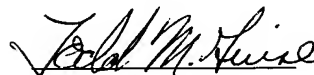
In the Office Action, an additional prior art reference was made of record. Applicant believes that this reference does not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3-17 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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